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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111
Serial Number: 09/772,189
Filing Date: January 29, 2001
Title: BAG WITH ERGONOMICALLY DISPOSED HANDLE

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Dkt: 578.0001US01

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

CLAIMS

1-25. (canceled)

26. (new) A bag comprising:

first and second side walls, each of the first and second side walls having four edges, the first and second side walls defining an interior volume, the first and second side walls having a vertical centerline and a pouring region on a first side of the vertical centerline;

the first and second side walls defining a first aperture configured to be gripped by the hand of an end-user, the first aperture having an oblong shape comprising a major axis parallel to the vertical centerline of the first and second side walls, the first aperture disposed adjacent to a corner of the first and second side walls and on the opposite side of the centerline from the pouring region, the first and second side walls coupled to one another in a heat-sealed region surrounding the first aperture; and

a rectangular reinforcing strip coupled to an outside surface of at least one of the first and second side walls, the reinforcing strip having a vertical length less than the first and second sidewalls, the reinforcing structure having a horizontal length less than the first and second sidewalls, the rectangular reinforcing strip defining a second aperture aligned with the first aperture of the first and second sidewalls, the rectangular reinforcing strip comprising four strip edges, wherein at least two of the four strip edges of the rectangular reinforcing strip are both parallel and aligned with edges of the first and second side walls.

27. (new) The bag of claim 26, the pouring region defined by a plurality of perforations through the first and second sidewall and extending from one of the four edges of the first and second sidewalls to another of the four edges of the first and second side walls.

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28. (new) The bag of claim 26, the first and second sidewalls comprising a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene and polystyrene.
29. (new) The bag of claim 26, further comprising a reinforcing ring attached to the first and second sidewalls and positioned within the first aperture defined by the first and second sidewalls.